

CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 (cancelled).

10.(Currently amended) A hair clip which includes a first comb having first-comb teeth separated by first-comb spaces and a second comb having second-comb teeth separated by second-comb spaces ~~two combs~~ and at least one elastic member resiliently to bias teeth of ~~the~~ each combs into an interleaved arrangement with one another, each comb having opposed first and second surfaces, ~~each comb having teeth that are separated by a space,~~ wherein:

a) the width of the first-comb teeth are slightly wider than the width of the second-comb spaces and the width of the second-comb teeth are slightly wider than the width of the first-comb spaces ~~the widths of the teeth of each comb are slightly wider than the widths of spaces adjacent the teeth;~~ and

b) the first-comb teeth and the second-comb teeth ~~the teeth of each comb~~ are each shaped with tapering sides on both first and second surfaces thereof in order to inter-fit with the teeth of the other comb, such that only a ~~at least~~ portions of at least selected teeth of said first-comb teeth ~~each comb~~ fit partially into said second-comb spaces and only a portion of at least selected teeth of said second-comb teeth fit partially into said first-comb spaces ~~spaces of the other comb;~~ and

c) the teeth are substantially elliptical in cross-section to provide the tapering sides substantially along their length,

whereby, when the teeth of the combs are interleaved from opposite directions, with some of the teeth of one comb overlaying and others underlaying the teeth of the other comb and such teeth being biased towards one another, at least some of such overlaying and underlaying teeth interact with one another to form clamps for clamping hair between the two combs in use.

11. (cancelled)

12.(Previously presented) A hair clip according to claim 10 wherein all of the teeth are wider than the spaces between the teeth and all are of substantially the same width.

13.(Currently amended) A hair clip according to claim 10 wherein the width of the first-comb teeth is about 0.5 to 2 mm wider than the width of the second-comb spaces ~~between the teeth of the comb~~ with which ~~such~~ the first-comb teeth are to be interleaved in use and wherein the width of the second-comb teeth is about 0.5 to 2 mm wider than the width of the first-comb spaces with which the second-comb teeth are to be interleaved in use.

14.(Previously presented) A hair clip according to claim 10 wherein the combs are made of a resiliently flexible material.

15.(Previously presented) A hair clip according to claim 10 wherein the elastic member includes a length of elastic material and a plurality of beads threaded onto the length of elastic material.

16.(Previously presented) A method of fastening hair using a hair clip which has two combs and at least one elastic member to bias teeth of the combs towards each other, the combs being movable independently of each other and selected teeth of the combs being wider than spaces between teeth with which such selected teeth are to be interleaved in use, which includes the steps of:

- (A) inserting one of the combs into the hair in a first direction;
- (B) stretching the elastic member;
- (C) inserting the other comb into the hair in a second direction substantially opposed to the first direction; and
- (D) twisting the combs relatively to each other while inserting them into engagement, such that some of the teeth of one comb overlay and others underlay the teeth of the other comb so as to clamp hair between the two combs.

17.(Previously presented) A method according to claim 18 wherein the twisting is performed by rotating one comb relatively to the other.

18.(Previously presented) A method according to claim 18 wherein the twisting is performed by distorting at least one combs about an axis substantially parallel to the length of the teeth of the comb.